

MAKING PROGRESS

in Africa 2002

Reducing hunger and poverty, promoting democracy, mitigating conflict, improving health, and preserving the continent's vast resources are USAID's central goals in Africa. Working with local, national, and international partners from both the public and private sectors, USAID seeks the most appropriate solutions and strategies for successful programs and results. USAID develops and strengthens African capacity in all sectors, and places special emphasis where the need is greatest.

This year USAID increased funding for its core programs in agriculture, HIV/AIDS, and conflict mitigation in Africa. In addition, new initiatives have been launched to fight hunger, increase trade and economic growth, strengthen education, preserve the forests of the Congo Basin, and fight corruption throughout Africa. These initiatives build on USAID's existing programs and enhance the Agency's ability to work in partnership with Africans to address their most immediate challenges.

These challenges remain daunting. Despite improvements in economic management, Africa still lags behind the rest of the developing world in almost every quality of life indicator. Severe droughts in late 2002 in southern Africa and Ethiopia threaten nearly 30 million people with starvation, and the most vulnerable groups in these areas will require food aid until at least next year's harvests. Nearly half of sub-Saharan African countries have experienced armed conflict in the past five years, which has undermined progress made in health, economic growth, and democracy, and required costly humanitarian assistance.

Meanwhile, HIV/AIDS continues to spread. The pandemic is no longer just a health problem but has become a major



An aspiring scientist in Johannesburg, South Africa.

USAID South Africa

issue that threatens economic, social, and political development in many African countries. This year, programs supporting children and adults affected by AIDS were expanded and in fiscal year 2002, the United States provided nearly one billion dollars for global HIV/AIDS assistance, a 36 percent increase over the previous year. With more than 70 percent of all people infected by HIV/AIDS living in Africa, these expanded resources are vital to USAID's programs.

A prosperous and democratic Africa will benefit the world economy as a partner in trade and investment, and will more effectively collaborate in combatting global health issues, fighting environmental degradation, and stopping the spread of terrorism. Strategies initiated by Africans such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)—a new vision and plan of action for African development launched last year—present new opportunities for USAID to collaborate with African leaders and other donors. In addition, the Agency's Global Development Alliance encourages new alliances with foundations, corporations, universities, and private organizations. USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios says "It signals a new era of cooperation where we work together to get projects accomplished on a much larger scale than USAID could do with only its own resources."

Inside...

Education	2
Economic Growth	3
Agriculture	5
Natural Resources Management	6
Democracy and Governance	7

Crisis and Humanitarian Assistance	9
HIV/AIDS	10
Family Planning.....	10
Maternal and Child Health	11

Education

An educated workforce is vital to Africa's ability to attain higher standards of living, but Africa lags behind the rest of the world in making the needed in-

vestments in education. Primary school enrollment rates in Africa, while continuing to increase, are the lowest in the world, with an average of 60 percent of children attending school.

Teachers are often untrained, underpaid, and lack teaching materials and support. In southern Africa, teachers have been especially hard hit by HIV/AIDS. Twenty-five percent of the teachers in South Africa are HIV positive, and Zambia loses four to five teachers a day to AIDS.

USAID's education programs focus on improving basic education, particularly for girls, because of the proven positive impact this has on economic and social development. This focus is achieved through a sector support approach where USAID's programs target reform of the education system rather than individual projects. This helps African ministries of education find sustainable means of increasing access to education, improving the quality of learning, mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS, and initiating education programs in countries in transition, such as Sudan.

In Benin, USAID's education program established local private-public sector partnerships to increase the ability of the education system to sustain and replicate its successes. When the Ministry of Education revamped the entire primary education curriculum and incorporated more activity and participatory learning methods, 1.7 million new textbooks, produced using local writers and printers, were distributed to first graders in 4,500 schools.

Interactive Radio Enriches Primary Education

The fourth graders in Mrs. Koria Kouyaté's class at the Petel Lelouma Primary School in the Fouta Djallon highlands of Guinea have come to school very early this morning. Why are all the kids in school today? "Because it's a radio show day," says Kouyaté, "and the kids don't want to miss it." For 90 minutes each week, children in grades 1-6 across Guinea listen to a USAID-sponsored interactive radio show called "Under the Kapok Tree." Says Kouyaté, "The

radio program is effective because children learn by playing. They don't even realize it, but they are learning a lot."

Developed by the U.S.-based Education Development Center in collaboration with the Guinean government, the radio show uses audio, visual, and tactile-kinesthetic strategies to teach children language, mathematics, science, community health, and other subjects. During the broadcast, teach-

ers typically follow the instructions of the "radio teachers," guiding children to sing songs, answer questions, manipulate objects, draw pictures, and work in small groups to solve problems.

The broadcasts, done entirely in French, began during the 1999-2000 school year for first and second graders. The next year, the broadcasts were expanded to cover grades 1-6 during 22 weeks of the school year. An estimated 22,000 teachers and 900,000 students benefit from the program nationally.

To support the broadcasts, wind-up radios have been distributed to all elementary schools nationwide. Teachers also received guides, student activity books, posters, and science kits. In-service workshops and bi-monthly meetings give teachers additional support to adapt to an interactive style of teaching that is quite different from the traditional teacher-centered methods.

Sow Abdoul Salam, principal of the grade school in the village of Tountouroun, says that "Teachers are learning to be more active, and not just stand in front of the class, which was what they did before. They're getting new ideas. With this project, each teacher is learning to become a true artisan of his own training."

Although teachers are benefiting from the program, the biggest fans continue to be Guinean children. Simply watching young Guinean children come to school early, and clapping and singing in Guinean classrooms on "radio show days" is testimony in and of itself.



L. Lantigue/USAID Guinea

Guinean students enjoying a radio lesson.

In Ghana, an in-service training program implemented for teachers in 117 schools led to a national exam pass rate double the national average for the 28,300 students in the impacted schools. The Ugandan government increased allocations to the education sector from 22 to 31 percent of its annual budget.

The new five-year Presidential Africa Education Initiative challenges African education professionals to find new ways to provide children with opportunities to learn and become productive members of society. There are currently 40 million children out of school in Africa, and 60 percent of these are girls. The initiative will provide scholarships for 250,000 girls who would otherwise be unable to attend due to a lack of school fees. The initiative also addresses the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on education systems by increasing the capacity of African education ministries to confront the loss of skilled teachers to the epidemic. Finally, the initiative targets improved access to and quality of education through teacher training, the development and distribution of textbooks and other learning tools, greater use of information technology, and the increased involvement of communities and parents in their children's education.

In addition, the USAID-funded Education for Development and De-



Scholarship Program Makes an Impact in Rwanda

The USAID-funded Education for Development and Democracy Initiative (EDDI) has provided funding for the Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program, inaugurated in Rwanda in fiscal year 1999. Sixty-seven girls from 10 schools in Rwanda were selected as scholarship recipients to begin their secondary studies. The program has had a tremendous impact on the lives of these girls.

For example, Scholastic Mukacyubahiro is a 17-year-old orphan living with a distant uncle in Kigali. She is a third year student at the Forum for African Women Educationalists Girls' School on the outskirts of Kigali. She said, "Without the EDDI Girls Scholarship Program, I do not know if I would still be in school. My uncle has many children to look after and I was going to have to drop out of school until the EDDI Girls Scholarship program came to my school. When I am at school I feel happy and secure. My dream is to get an education so that I can help rebuild my country. The program has offered me a chance to learn languages and science. I am particularly happy to use computers. When I finish my education, I will either be a lawyer or a medical doctor."



Scholastic Mukacyubahiro.

A. Kagabo/USAID Rwanda

mocracy Initiative (EDDI) continues to strengthen educational capacity. Since 1998, EDDI has provided scholarships to over 30,000 young women and girls, supported 71 technology and 69 higher education partnerships, and shipped 3 million books to Africa.

Economic Growth

Long term, broad-based economic growth is essential for Africa to reach its great potential as a trade and investment partner in the world economy and attain higher living standards. Sub-Saharan Africa experienced strong economic growth rates in the latter half of the 1990s, but these growth rates must be sustained and accelerated in order to have a significant impact on poverty.

Reaching the Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty levels in Africa by 50 percent by 2015, one of many global targets set by the world's leaders at the Millennium Summit in September 2000, will require a 7 percent annual growth rate in GDP. But growth rates in Africa are estimated to fall to 3 percent in 2002. Furthermore, the increase in HIV/AIDS infection rates is taking its toll on Africa's workforce and has become a serious threat to Africa's economic well-being.

USAID concentrates its economic growth efforts on expanding openness to trade and investment, improving the enabling environment for the private sector, increasing agricultural productivity and

Business Where It Is Needed Most— A Local Industry Gets Under Way

Elimane Dramé is a small businessman in the Casamance region of Senegal, an area long economically depressed by civil war. When EnterpriseWorks, backed by USAID, came to the Casamance in July 2001 to promote new economic opportunities in one of the region's growing production sectors—cashew nuts—Mr. Dramé was one of the first to seize the idea. Producers have historically sold their raw cashews at low prices to foreign processors. This project aims to introduce a processing industry to add value to the product before it leaves Senegal, thus increasing local people's share of the income from cashew production. Each participant is expected to

make the necessary investments in equipment, raw materials, and labor, while EnterpriseWorks provides the technical training and market development skills required and also trains local artisans to produce and sell the relevant specialized equipment.

Mr. Dramé was the first to ask to be part of EnterpriseWorks' cashew processing training program and buy the equipment from the local specially trained manufacturer.

He was the first to get a building for his private cashew processing unit, and started processing and selling finished cashew nuts at the end of November 2001, only one month after the end of the training. Since then others have followed his example.

Mr. Dramé invested approximately US\$1,450 in his processing unit, and after only two months, he recovered his investment. He employs six workers, including four women. His biggest problem now is satisfying the growing demand. He is already thinking about how to increase his capacity by reinvesting his profits in more processing equipment and a more sophisticated packaging machine. He is developing contacts via the Internet with traders in Taiwan, Morocco, and Tunisia. His long-term goal is the export market.

The efforts of Elimane Dramé and his fellow project participants in the Casamance will boost the reputation of the region as a source of a high-quality product and bring in revenues needed by the population to overcome the economic effects of civil war.



Cashews waiting for harvest.

trade, strengthening African capacity to manage economic and natural resources, and increasing rural incomes. To increase export capacity and trade with the United States, USAID conducts training programs on the Africa Growth and Opportunity

Act (AGOA). During 2000-2001, U.S. imports from sub-Saharan Africa increased by 61 percent, and in 2001 the United States imported more than \$8 billion in duty-free, AGOA-related goods.

Through the new Presidential Trade for Af-

rican Development and Enterprise (TRADE) initiative, USAID missions are helping African economies increase export and investment opportunities and better integrate themselves into world markets. Three regional Hubs for Global Competitiveness in Botswana, Kenya, and Ghana, staffed by global trade specialists, provide assistance to USAID programs, regional public and private sector organizations, and local governments.

In West Africa, USAID's regional office is working with the Economic Community of West African States to create the West African Power Pool, a new African institution that will help unite the region around electricity provision, one of the major constraints to economic development there.

USAID's private sector activities address some of the most common business sector complaints, such as poor commercial environments, under-developed knowledge and skills, and the need for association building. For example, USAID/Mozambique is working with a business association to address policy issues such as customs inspection and fines, commercial land, and domestic and expatriate labor issues. USAID/South Africa supported the development of 29 primarily female-owned rural village banks and leveraged an additional \$5 million in ser-

vices and capital from one of South Africa's major banks.

Expanding capacity in information and communication technology is important to the continent's efforts to keep up in this rapidly changing sector. USAID's Leland Initiative and 25 partner countries have made substantial progress in increasing access to and use of the new information technologies. In Kenya, Leland pricing reforms are saving consumers \$25 million a year in reduced access charges, while in Uganda and Nigeria, calling center operators are benefiting from voice-over-the-Internet efficiencies. Leland is using the leverage of public-private alliances to tackle challenges in policy reform, private sector-led infrastructure build-out, and training. NetTel@Africa—an alliance of African and U.S. telecom regulators—is developing training courses and a masters degree program through partnerships with African and U.S. universities. And through Cisco Networking Academy Programs in 20 countries, Leland is training several thousand African men and women to install and operate modern computer networks.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the foundation of most African economies, supporting over 70 percent of the population and contributing an average of 30 percent of

GDP. Yet Africa's share of the world's hungry people is on the rise, and is projected to increase from 38 percent in 2001 to 50 percent in 2011. Africa's rural population continues to grow rapidly, but the yields of staple cereal crops remained flat, and per capita food production has steadily declined in the last

five years. An increasing number of countries have begun to reform their economies by renewing their commitment to rural agriculture-led economic growth, yet much work remains to assure that Africa can produce sufficient food resources. The most serious constraints to increasing agricultural productiv-

SuperMoneyMaker Pump Revives Hope

Within a span of only five years, the SuperMoneyMaker micro-irrigation pump has stimulated great advancements among its users in Kenya. Created in 1997 through Appropriate Technologies for Enterprise Creation (ApproTEC) with USAID funding, the pump is dramatically changing rural livelihoods formerly hindered by drought.

For Meshack Thurania, a vegetable farmer from Tigania village, eastern Kenya, the pump has meant new life for his family. "I used to use the backbreaking process of fetching water using a bucket to irrigate my crop," says Thurania, "but the yields were always poor and fetched very little money. My children could not attend school. I could barely afford to feed my family."

Then in 1998, Thurania heard about the pump from a promotional demonstration by ApproTEC's monitoring team. The pump is operated manually by peddling to bring water uphill or from a depth of 20 feet and irrigate over two acres of land. Thrilled by its capability, Thurania borrowed 6,000 shillings from his relatives and friends to buy the pump for himself.

Thurania's yield quickly grew tenfold and he was assured of year-round production of vegetables. By the third tomato harvest, Thurania had bought three dairy cows. And two years later he bought two more acres of land and began growing a wider variety of vegetables. His annual earnings from vegetable sales and his dairy herd topped 547,200 shillings. "Since I bought the pump I hardly run short of produce and money is no longer the problem it used to be," says Thurania, who has since employed two farm assistants to handle the increasing workload. "With this pump, I am confident that I will earn a lot more from my business," he says. "After all, it has enabled me to enjoy the luxury and prestige of paying school fees for my two sons, as well as owning a solar panel and a television set." With a smile of satisfaction, Thurania says, "In only four years, this pump has enabled me to reach heights I could never have imagined."



The SuperMoneyMaker pump in action.

USAID Kenya

ity include low usage of improved technologies and information, poor land use, insecurity of land rights, poor infrastructure, and inappropriate policy and regulatory frameworks that create distortions in markets and disincentives for efficient production.

USAID's agricultural programs in Africa address these constraints by increasing agricultural productivity and incomes, strengthening public and private sector alliances as well as regional trade links, and harnessing biotechnology. For example, in Mali, USAID's support of improved seeds and farming practices such as irrigation helped raise cereal production in 2001 by 24 percent from the previous year. And in Uganda, yields of maize, the staple crop, were doubled due to improved technologies.

A new Presidential Initiative to End Hunger in Africa, announced this year, calls for a partnership with African leaders, especially from the private sector and governments, to work on a smallholder-oriented strategy for agricultural growth. This initiative supports the United States' pledge to help cut hunger in Africa in half by 2015. The primary objective of the initiative is to rapidly increase sustainable agricultural growth and rural incomes in sub-Saharan Africa. Working with USAID's ongoing agricultural activities, the initiative will emphasize pro-

grams that improve the use of modern technologies to support agricultural growth, expand credit to farmers, strengthen community-based farmer associations, improve the efficiency of markets and trade systems, build human capacity to shape and lead policy, and ensure that land is developed in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Natural Resources Management

Sub-Saharan Africa has abundant natural resources, but they are unevenly distributed. Too many places in rural Africa suffer from pervasive poverty, disenfranchisement, and natural resource mismanagement and degradation. Rapid urbanization and industrialization are also creating new environmental challenges. Over the next 25 years, urban population growth rates will be three times that of rural areas. The widely used top down approach to natural resource management has contributed to degradation, and inequitable access to natural resources has led to social instability and conflict.

There are three dimensions to effective natural resources management (NRM): environmental, economic, and governmental. Traditional NRM approaches have focused on environmental benefits, but USAID has found that approaches targeting all three dimensions are much

more successful over the long term. The main governance issue for most Africans is control of and access to the revenue potential of local natural resources.

In more than 20 African countries, USAID has supported policy reform, emphasizing capacity building and a community-based approach to natural resources management. For example, the Living in a Finite Environment program in Namibia encourages the formation of locally managed communal area conservancies. As of 2001, communal conservancies were managing nearly 21 percent of Namibia's protected areas, and the benefits are evident. Springbok and oryx, two important antelope species, are increasing their numbers, with oryx going from less than 2,500 in 1990 to 15,000 in 2000. A community-based forest management program in Guinea encourages village residents to take responsibility for nearby communal forests, giving them the incentive to combat illicit resource extraction.

In Mali, where USAID's program has created a nexus of natural resources management, intensified agriculture, and good governance, thousands of farmers have reclaimed eroded fields. By surrounding the land with contour rock lines, restoring the soil with mineral and organic fertilizers, and practicing crop rotation,

farmers are producing sizable yields of sorghum and millet on land that had produced nothing for over a decade.

Demonstrating the governance side of NRM, an association of small-scale fishermen in Madagascar was able to analyze issues surrounding the sustainability of marine resources off the island's western coast with the support of USAID. As a result, the association advocated protecting their rights to these resources and limiting large-scale commercial fishing close to the coast, and was permitted to join larger fishing companies and government ministries in making policies about the future of marine resources.

The Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) has fostered awareness of environmental governance at national and international levels and provided timely environmental information within the region during its first five years. CARPE's work has resulted in an expansion of protected areas in Gabon, better spacing and allocation of timber concessions, and increasing environmental awareness in the private sector, especially on the issue of bushmeat. The 10 percent increase in the mountain gorilla population over the past 10 years in the adjoining mountain areas of Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo show that it is

Community Agroforestry Preserves Soil

In the hilly Kyantobi village in southwestern Uganda, the problems of high population density, severe environmental degradation, and few alternative economic opportunities have become acute. Devastating soil erosion, landslides, and floods from the particularly intense El Niño rains of 1998 covered productive gardens of vegetables and potatoes with sand and stones or washed topsoil away. The community faced a year of hunger.

Village residents, seeing that their precarious livelihoods were threatened, decided to approach the Agroforestry Research and Development Project, jointly implemented by the Forestry Resources Research Institute and International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) with funding from USAID/Uganda. Everyone agreed that the project staff would help with training and provision of agroforestry materials for soil conservation, while local leaders would provide the key elements for success: planning, community mobilization, and resolution of land conflicts.

After visiting site trials, farmers identified contour hedges as the most appropriate innovation for alleviating soil erosion problems. Empowered to plan and implement soil conservation through an initial participatory mapping exercise, 200 households participate actively in agroforestry. Sixteen nurseries, each producing 3,000 to 4,000 hedge seedlings per season, have been established. The farmers originally planted hedges to retain soil, but they are also now being used to provide high-quality fodder, stakes for climbing beans, and fuel wood.

The hedges have been effective, reducing runoff by about 70 percent. Crop performance has also greatly improved, with maize yields almost doubling on agroforestry intervention plots. As a result of the Kyantobi success, the sub-county council has integrated agroforestry into its three-year development plan and now intends to make Kyantobi a farmer-training site, where residents will conduct training for a fee. One hundred fifty additional nurseries have been established. Agroforestry is now serving as a platform for other rural development projects such as raising pigs, goats, and fish.

possible to conserve habitat in very difficult situations when the appropriate techniques and resources are available.

The new Presidential Congo Basin Forest Partnership will build on the work of CARPE. The partnership will emphasize better utilization and preservation of national parks and protected areas in six Central African counties: Cameroon, Central Africa

Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Republic of Congo.

Democracy and Governance

Africa is a politically dynamic continent, and public support for democracy is widespread. According to recent public opinion surveys, more than two-thirds of Africans interviewed in 12 countries

Legal Advice Centers Help Poor Secure Rights

USAID support to 20 legal advice centers throughout South Africa is helping the poor to access the benefits and services to which they are entitled. Located in both rural areas and urban townships, the centers provide free legal services to the poorest people in South Africa's historically disadvantaged communities, help to prevent child abuse and domestic violence, and protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA).



A paralegal advising a low income client.

One very young beneficiary is a three-year-old AIDS orphan who was expelled from a day care center in Guguletu Township near Cape Town after parents of other children there discovered that she was HIV positive. Desperate and unsure of what, if any, recourse she had, the girl's grandmother turned to the Western Cape Legal Advice Center for help. The Center inter-

vened, and found a place for the child at another day care center. The Advice Center also used the incident as an opportunity to sponsor workshops for day care center managers and community residents on the issues of discrimination against PLHA. The workshops gave community members opportunities to express their concerns and information to dispel their fears about children with HIV.

indicated that democracy is always preferable to non-democratic forms of government. Democracy and good governance are also high on the agendas of African leaders as illustrated by NEPAD and the charter of the new African Union.

USAID's democracy and governance programs focus on elections, civil society, rule of law, and governance. Election institutions are still weak in many African countries, often resulting in flawed processes and contested results. In response, USAID helps strengthen electoral processes by supporting civil society's participation in election monitoring, civic education campaigns,

and fair media coverage, as well as supporting permanent electoral commissions. For example, USAID sponsored collaborative meetings between the Independent Nigerian Electoral Commission and civil society on a voter-education program. USAID also supported the Media Institute for Southern Africa's leading role in the region by improving media freedom through advocacy campaigns and watchdog activities.

Recent events in Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Madagascar demonstrated the ability of civil society to vigorously resist attempts by executives to extend their constitution-

ally mandated terms or steal elections. Even where such efforts have been unsuccessful, as in Zimbabwe, civil society has been a significant force for mobilization of popular participation and a check on government authority. African civil society, while growing in importance, is still very dependent on donor funds. To reduce this dependency, USAID is working to strengthen the advocacy and management skills of civil society organizations, as well as promote partnerships between government, business, and civil society.

The independence of the judiciary is often weak in Africa, and many citizens avoid formal rule of law institutions. USAID's rule of law programs address some of these weaknesses through training, alternative dispute resolution activities, and technical assistance to develop case tracking and management systems, which will help clear excessive caseload backlogs. In Zambia, USAID is working with the Law Association of Zambia and the judiciary on initiatives to settle commercial disputes before they come to court and to refer selected court cases to mediation.

To capitalize on the strong rhetorical commitment to good governance that is growing on the continent, USAID increased support to decentralization and anti-corruption activities. In Uganda, USAID

activities focus on strengthening the financial management and budget skills of local governments, thereby improving their capacity to deliver services.

A new Africa Bureau Anti-Corruption Initiative aims to reduce corruption in sub-Saharan Africa by making the environment for corruption less conducive. The initiative will promote public access to information, civic participation in government decision-making, transparent and efficient government procedures, and effective government oversight institutions. The initiative reflects the good governance principles put forward under NEPAD, and will support current “African-grown” anti-corruption efforts by organizations such as the African Union and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

USAID’s democracy programs must also address the fact that AIDS will continue to have a destabilizing effect on African societies over the coming years. Many USAID missions in Africa are now using cross-sectoral approaches to integrate HIV/AIDS into their democracy activities. For example, health services organizations are learning to develop advocacy skills and engage in policy discussion on human rights issues to protect the rights of individuals infected with HIV/AIDS.

Crisis Management and Humanitarian Assistance

Severe droughts in southern Africa and Ethiopia threaten 30 million people with starvation this year. Food security in many countries is also threatened by significant increases in the price of staple crops such as corn. The severity of the food shortages and the factors contributing to it are many and vary from country to country, but include drought, floods, poor harvests, and depletion of strategic grain reserves. Moreover, poor policy and economic mismanagement have contributed to the food shortage. In addition, the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS leaves large portions of the population increasingly vulnerable to health problems, and exacerbates the effects of the drought because households have fewer capable members to produce food or generate income.

Since early 2002, the U.S. government has provided food aid, water, sanitation, and health services to the most vulnerable groups in drought-affected areas of southern Africa. To address the long-term food security needs of famine-prone areas, USAID is supporting activities to restart agricultural production in the hardest hit communities in the region. The agency is providing locally procured seed, including more drought-resistant alternatives to corn, such as sorghum and cassava, to disaster-affected farming

families in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. In the meantime, the USAID Famine Early Warning System Network encourages joint food security reporting with national and regional organizations, and supports contingency planning within SADC.

Outbreaks of grasshoppers and locusts continue to threaten agricultural production on land that is critical to Africa’s economy. USAID supports surveying and monitoring by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization’s Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases, which has resulted in fewer locust outbreaks in the past six years. In addition, USAID-funded research and development of biopesticides has contributed to a complete change in thinking by African countries on how to deal with pests. Unlike conventional chemical pesticides, biopesticides have little or no negative effects on humans and the environment, including natural enemies of the targeted pest.

Conflict continues to haunt the continent, as violence has erupted in even formerly stable countries like Côte d’Ivoire. However, there is hope for peace in several long-running wars such as those in Angola, Democratic Republic of the

Even as we fight to defeat terror, we must also fight for the values that make life worth living; for education and health and economic opportunity.

**—President George W. Bush
March 14, 2002**

Congo, Sudan, and Somalia. USAID is developing more programs to prevent or resolve conflict and promote post-conflict stability. USAID missions are designing and implementing regional and cross-border activities, such as in the Casamance region of Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and Gambia. USAID/Angola is working to reintegrate former rebel soldiers and internally displaced persons into Angolan society, assisting with infrastructure development and job training. USAID/Ethiopia is providing new skills in negotiation, dispute resolution, and conflict prevention to the pastoral communities along the frequently contentious southern border with Kenya. In Rwanda, USAID is supporting the *gacaca* court process, a traditional form of justice that is being used to speed up trials for nearly 115,000 detainees who have been accused of crimes during the 1994 genocide.

Health HIV/AIDS

According to UNAIDS, the scale of the AIDS crisis now outstrips even the worst case scenarios of a decade ago. In 2001 alone, there were 5 million new HIV infections globally, of which 3.5 million were in Africa. The pandemic, which is widening and deepening, had killed more than 18 million Africans by 2001, left 11 million African children orphaned,

and resulted in the loss of 20 years of gains in health development.

USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios, speaking to the U.S. Congress about USAID's efforts to fight HIV/AIDS, emphasized the importance of learning from prior experiences and being open to new approaches. "We are continually looking for new ways to make a difference, to shape new programs, identify promising new techniques and innovative strategies," he said. "And as we learn, we are constantly evaluating ourselves and our programs so that we can fine-tune our approach."

The Africa Bureau continues to make inroads in dealing with the multiple facets of this pandemic. Social marketing programs have resulted in increased condom sales and distribution across the continent, up 35 percent in Ghana, and 25 percent in Eritrea between 2000 and 2001. Voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) centers continue to expand services. In Malawi, client visits doubled between 2000 and 2001; in Kenya, VCT services at 32 clinic sites reached more than 9,000 clients in the first 6 months of operation; and in Rwanda, 12 VCT centers are now open, serving over 40,000 clients.

In Namibia, USAID support led to the drafting of a national policy on orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), and orphans

there received USAID assistance in the form of food, books, school uniforms, and counseling. In Nigeria, more than 3,000 OVCs benefited from HIV/AIDS programs providing access to education, vocational training, and basic subsistence assistance, and nearly 500 caregivers received help for supporting orphans through microenterprise projects. To assist with care issues, 2,500 people in rural Zimbabwe participated in a pilot home-based care initiative that distributed kits of nursing supplies and trained community volunteers.

One of the tragic, and preventable, consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is mother-to-child transmission of HIV during pregnancy, delivery, or through breastfeeding. USAID places a high priority on the prevention of HIV infection in women, with a focus on strategies to prevent new infection of pregnant women. For HIV positive women, high quality family planning services are critical. Pregnant women require voluntary counseling and testing, quality obstetric care, short-course antiretroviral medication, and counseling on infant feeding and family planning.

Family Planning

Despite the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on sub-Saharan Africa, the current population of 693 million is expected to sur-

pass 1 billion by 2025. This continued rise in population not only contributes to poor reproductive health but erodes development efforts in all sectors. USAID is increasing its advocacy efforts to refocus attention on the serious reproductive health problems Africans face, including high fertility, high maternal and infant mortality, and an unmet need for modern contraceptives that is three to four times greater for women in Africa than for women anywhere else in the world.

As a result of USAID's assistance, the use of modern contraceptives is increasing throughout sub-Saharan Africa. In Zambia, data indicates that in 2001, the contraceptive prevalence rate had nearly doubled to 25 percent. In Guinea, contraceptives now available in 89 percent of the country have led to new family planning users. And in Nigeria, greater contraceptive social marketing of condoms has increased the sale of condoms from 17 million in 1997 to more than 70 million in 2002.

Maternal and Child Health

In the last two decades, substantial progress has been made in reducing child mortality, yet the health of most Africans remains unacceptably poor by any standard. Four million children die in Africa every year due to acute respiratory infection, malaria, measles, and neonatal teta-

nus. Malnutrition is an underlying cause in many of these deaths. Diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus (DPT3) immunization rates have declined in several countries. Maternal mortality rates continue to be extremely high, with as

many as 1 woman in 15 expected to die from maternal complications compared to 1 in 157 in Latin America. Despite these challenges, improvements in child survival are possible when quality services, well-trained personnel,

Involving People Living with HIV/AIDS

Three years ago Mathew Miti, 22, was diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB). People ridiculed him, assuming that having TB meant he was HIV positive. "To prove them wrong I decided to have an HIV test," he said. He went for voluntary HIV counseling and testing at the USAID-supported Kara Counseling center. After a week, he went back to get his result—it was positive.

Three months later, Miti returned to his counselor. He believed he was dying soon and wanted to create a legacy for himself. Through the Kara program, Miti connected with the Network of Zambian People Living with HIV/AIDS (NZP+), also supported by USAID. He was invited to join the Lusaka Provincial Chapter where he quickly became very active. As an NZP+ representative, Miti "went public" with his HIV status early on when he became involved in two high-profile media programs. "My father said to me that he had not known I could be so brave and that I had taken a very big step. He said that I would need to be very strong to take the response from other people. He was right; it was very difficult."

Through his work with NZP+, Miti provided important input and support to a wide range of activities including developing a national HIV prevention mass media campaign targeting young people, participating in human rights advocacy for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA), advising on appropriate educational messages on HIV/AIDS, and designing services for HIV Voluntary Counseling and Testing.

Miti felt that PLHA were well placed to deliver messages on HIV/AIDS to communities and encouraged others to know their status and change risk behaviors. He felt strongly that although PLHA have a role to play in being the 'human face of AIDS,' it should not stop there—he thought they must be asked to do more, to be involved in the whole program. "Often programs are planned for people living with HIV/AIDS but they are not asking us what we want—we don't want things planned for us. We want to be part and parcel of that planning meeting—for me it is then that I feel I am doing something good."

Miti passed away in mid-2002. His family, friends, and colleagues remember him with admiration.



An HIV/AIDS counseling session in Zambia.

JHU/CCP

and the necessary drugs are available.

USAID focuses on increasing the availability, effectiveness, and access to quality health care. The Agency will continue to combat the leading causes



USAID Mozambique

Healthy children are vital to Africa's future.

of maternal and child mortality by increasing immunization coverage, strengthening surveillance, enhancing the skills of health care professionals, improving practices for prevention and management of childhood illnesses, and developing innovative health care financing strategies. For instance, one way to reduce potentially fatal instances of diarrhea and malnutrition among infants is to encourage their mothers to breastfeed them. USAID's efforts to promote these health benefits have contributed to increases in exclusive breastfeeding rates in Ghana, Madagascar, and Benin.

As part of the final push to eradicate polio worldwide, the Africa Bureau has been supporting National Immunization Days (NIDs) in all polio-endemic countries, with

Angola, Nigeria, and Ethiopia receiving special focus. NIDs are being synchronized with cross-border immunization activities in West and Central Africa, with multiple countries participating. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is also being used to support the Expanded Programme of Immunization Plus protocol of immunizations, vitamin A, and iodine supplementation.

In several target countries, efforts to increase DPT3 immunization have improved, particularly in Mozambique, Ghana, Madagascar, and Zambia. Programs in these countries use a combination of community-based approaches and behavior change communication strategies with good results. In Zambia, nearly 85 percent of children are now fully vaccinated by age one.

Malaria continues to devastate sub-Saharan Africa. Over 2 million people die from the parasitic disease each year, most of them children. The regular use of insecticide-treated bednets reduces mortality of young children by 25-30 percent. In addition, the numbers of low birthweight babies as a result of malaria can be reduced by delivering intermittent preventive treatment via antenatal programs. This can also reduce anemia in pregnant women. In Zambia, a community-driven Malaria Task Force is educating people about these methods at the village level. Simi-

larly, the Africa Integrated Malaria Initiative in Benin focuses on educating community health workers. Both programs report early successes.

There are 1.6 million new cases of tuberculosis (TB)—the leading cause of death for people with HIV in Africa—each year, resulting in 600,000 TB deaths annually. The Africa Bureau is working with regional institutions, such as the regional Centre for Quality of Health Care at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, to improve TB control. They are also fostering partnerships with the World Health Organization and national TB and HIV programs to improve TB and HIV/AIDS collaboration. Decentralizing TB diagnosis and treatment is also crucial. Malawi has adopted a decentralized TB care policy, expanding care from only 39 hospitals to more than 200 public, private, and community clinics nationwide, making treatment much more accessible.



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